

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A substrate whose surface comprises at least one hyperbranched polymer which has urethane groups and/or urea groups, said surface being modified by said polymer whereby the surface becomes either more hydrophobic or more hydrophilic upon being modified, wherein the hyperbranched polymer is synthesized from AB_x monomers having at least two different functional groups A and B which can react with one another to form a link, either A being an isocyanate group and B being a group which can react with isocyanate groups or vice versa and x is a natural number from 2 to 8, and the hyperbranched polymer is optionally subjected to a polymer-analogous reaction prior to modifying the surface of the substrate, and wherein the substrate excludes substrates derived from cellulose.

Claim 2 (Original): A substrate as claimed in claim 1 in the form of a particulate, linear, sheet-like, or three-dimensional structure.

Claim 3 (Original): A substrate as claimed in claim 2 in the form of a linear or sheet-like textile.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 3 in which the textile comprises synthetic fibers.

Claim 5 (Original): A substrate as claimed in claim 2 in which the structure has the form of a plastic film or of a plastic molding.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hyperbranched polymer has a degree of branching (DB) of from 10 to 100%.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hyperbranched polymer on the substrate surface is subjected to a polymer-analogous reaction between the hyperbranched polymer which bears urethane groups and/or urea groups, and/or other functional groups which are capable of a condensation reaction or addition reaction and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of:

- a) compounds which bear at least one functional group complementary to those groups of the hyperbranched polymer which are capable of a condensation reaction or addition reaction, where the compounds also bear at least a hydrophilic group;
 - b) compounds which bear at least one functional group complementary to those groups of the hyperbranched polymer which are capable of a condensation reaction or addition reaction, where the compounds also bear at least a hydrophobic group;
- and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A process for modifying the surface property of a substrate, comprising applying an effective amount of a hyperbranched polymer which bears urethane groups and/or urea groups to the surface of a substrate, whereby the surface becomes either more hydrophobic or more hydrophilic upon being modified, and wherein the substrate excludes substrates derived from cellulose.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process for modifying the surface property of a substrate, comprising treating a material of which a substrate is comprised with an effective amount of a hyperbranched polymer which has urethane groups and/or urea groups, whereby the surface becomes either more hydrophobic or more hydrophilic upon being modified, and wherein the substrate excludes substrates derived from cellulose.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein x is 2 or 3.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the groups reactive toward the isocyanate groups are OH, NH₂, NH, SH, or COOH groups.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hyperbranched polymer is synthesized from AB_x monomers and a diisocyanate and a compound which has two groups reactive toward isocyanate groups, in a molar ratio of diisocyanate to compound which has two groups reactive toward isocyanate groups of from 1:1.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hyperbranched polymer is not subjected to a polymer-analogous reaction prior to modifying the surface of the substrate.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 2, which comprises at least one polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters,

polyamides, polyacrylonitrile, polyaromatics, styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers (SAN), acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers (ABS), and polyurethanes.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 4, wherein the synthetic fibers are made from polyolefin, polyester, polyacrylonitrile, or polyamide.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 2, which is in the form of a supported or unsupported film, and comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polymers of halogenated monomers, and polyesters.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hyperbranched polymer has a degree of branching (DB) of from 10 to 80%.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, which is a film comprising polypropylene.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hyperbranched polymer has urethane groups.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hyperbranched polymer has urea groups.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface becomes more hydrophobic upon being modified.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A substrate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface becomes more hydrophilic upon being modified.

Claim 24 (New): The process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the hyperbranched polymer is applied to the surface of the substrate in a solution, and then the substrate is dried, whereby the hyperbranched polymer is absorbed or adsorbed by the surface.

Claim 25 (New): The process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the solution is applied by splashing, dipping, spraying or padding.

Claim 26 (New): The process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the hyperbranched polymer content is 0.01 to 10% by weight of the solution.

Claim 27 (New): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the hyperbranched polymer is applied the material and the material is then further processed to form the substrate.

Claim 28 (New): The process as claimed in claim 27, wherein the material is a thermoplastic.